

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1000
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1728

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD PDIP CH

SUBJ: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

1. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF RECENT CHANGES IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE'S THIRD
BUREAU (RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN EUROPE, THE AMERICAS AND
OCEANIA) WHICH WE BELIEVE HAVE RESULTED IN A CONSIDERABLE
STRENGTHENING IN MFT PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR US/PRC
TRADE. PRESENT LINE-UP AS WE UNDERSTAND IT IS AS
FOLLOWS: SUN SO-CHANG, DIRECTOR, THIRD BUREAU; AN TUNG,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR US); CHANG
WEN-CHUNG, DIRECTOR, NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIVISION
(INCLUDES RESPONSIBILITY FOR US AND CANADA); LI WEI,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIVISION.

2. SUN'S APPOINTMENT WAS CONFIRMED IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. A
FORMER THIRD BUREAU DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SUN HEADED
CHINESE DELEGATION WHICH COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS OF THE
PRC-EC TRADE AGREEMENT IN EARLY FEBRUARY. SUN, WHO IS WELL
KNOWN TO USLO OFFICERS, IMPRESSES US AS A COMPETENT
AD RELATIVELY FRANK BUREAUCRAT.
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3. AN TUNG: WE HAVE NOT YET MET HIM, AND HAVE NO
INFORMATION ON HIS BACKGROUND.

4. CHANG WEN-CHUNG (1728/2419/0112); WE HAVE HAD ONE
MEETING AT MFT WITH CHANG, AND HE ATTENDED AMBASSADOR
WOODCOCK'S MAY 26 RECEPTION FOR THE NCUSCT AGRICULTURAL

MECHANIZATION DELEGATION. CHANG, TALL AND URBANE, RETURNED ABOUT A YEAR AGO FROM AN ASSIGNMENT IN CANBERRA AS A COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AT THE PRC EMBASSY. AFTER RETURNING TO CHINA, CHANG WAS SENT TO A CADRE SCHOOL AND A MONTH OR TWO AGO WAS ASSIGNED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION. WE FIND HIM COMPETENT AND EFFICIENT. CHANG SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH.

5. LI WEI APPARENTLY REPLACES CHANG KUO-SHEN, A LACK-LUSTER FEMALE INTERPRETER (NOW IN MAY 7 CADRE SCHOOL) AS THE MFT OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR US AFFAIRS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. (CHANG WEN-CHUNG TOLD USLO OFFICER HE HAD FOUR OFFICERS UNDER HIM WORKING ON US AFFAIRS) LI IS FAMILIAR TO USLO COMMERCIAL OFFICERS BECAUSE WE HAVE MET WITH HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN CANTON IN HIS ROLE AS A DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CHINESE EXPORT COMMODITIES FAIR; PREVIOUSLY, HIS FUNCTION IN THE MFT THIRD BUREAU WAS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY TO US. LI IMPRESSES US AS A RELATIVELY OPEN, SUAVE, ARTICULATE AND PERSONABLE OFFICIAL. HE HAS INDICATED THAT THE MFT, AS OPPOSED TO THE FOREIGN TRADE CORPORATIONS, IS PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MANAGING PRC FOREIGN TRADE ACTIVITIES. LI SEEMS RECEPTIVE TO MORE FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH USLO. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE HAS REQUESTED THAT WE PROVIDE HIS OFFICE WITH INFORMATION ON TRADE SHOWS IN THE US (WHICH PREVIOUSLY WE HAVE SENT ONLY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CCPIT) AS WELL AS OTHER SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, LI IN HIS REMARKS TO USLO OFFICERS AND NCUSCT REPRESENTATIVES HAS ALSO POINTED TO "OBSTACLES" ON BOTH SIDES WHICH ARE HINDERING FULL DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TRADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE
WOODCOCK

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